Vol. 3. Numb. 15.

THE REHEARSAL.

1. The Description of a *Whigg* as to the *Church*.
2. As to the *State*.
3. Many *Generous* and *Sincere* men among them:
4. Their *Misfortune* in Entertaining Wrong Notions of *Government*.
5. They will not let the *last Resort* be in *King* and *Parlament*. *De Foe* leaps at a *Dazie*.
6. Of *Conditions* with *Soveraign Powers*. No *Appeal* to the *People* in any Case.
7. The *King* and *Parlament* may Regulate the *Parlament* as they Please.
8. Our *Constitution* is not upon the Foot of the *People*. No *Law* to this Day allows of Taking *Arms* against the *Government*, on any *Pretence* Whatsoever.

SATURDAY, *May* 22. 1708.

(1.) *Country-man.* YOU said enough in your Last, *Master*, to frighten any one that wishes well to the *Church* of *England* from chusing a *Dissenter*, an *Occasional Conformist*, or a *Low Church-Man* for the ensuing *Parliament*.

(1.) But there is another Sort of People they call *Whiggs* who keep constantly to *Church*, and pretend to be for the *Church*, and will *ridicule* the *Dissenters*. What say you as to these? *Master*.

Rehearsal. A true *Whigg* is for *Religion* a *Deist*. He will own a *God*, but banters *Revelation*. He believes no *Church*, but complies with any is in *Fashion*. And will overturn one *Church* and set up another, as he thinks it serves his *Interest*, his *Ambition* to be the *Head* of a *Party*, or whatever other *Politicks*, or sometimes even for his *Diversion*, and to shew what he can do. And such a Man must be a trusty *Guardian* for any *Church*.

(2.) *Country-m.* But how is he as to the *State*? He May be a good Common-wealths-Man for all this.

Rehearf. Yes! He is all *Common-wealth*. That's the *Government* he likes best. He's for the Power of the *People*. And is always drawing new *Schemes* of *Government*. And can find none wou'd not *Hang* himself in half a year. For he can be Content with none, because None of his Contriving will Answer the End he Proposes, and therefor he is for *Overturning*, *Overturning*, *Overturning*——

Counrry-m. Then he's as Dangerous in the *State* as in the *Church*. He loves *Revolution*. And hates *Heredstary* Government, because it is *Settlement*. And the *Worse Title* the *Better King* with him, because it keeps the *King* more at the Mercy of the *People*, and makes way for new *Changes*.

(3.) *Rehearf.* And yet he may think these *Changes* for the Better, and Really may *Design* what he thinks most for the *Publick Good*. And many of them Endeavour after in good Earnest, and do many *Generous* and *Popular* things. And are Men of *Probity* and *Honour*, and *Sincere* in what they Profess, and have many *Noble* and *Lovely* Qualities, as the *Patriots* among the *Greeks* and *Romans*, who Durst even *Sacrifice* themselves for their *Country*.

(4.) But their Misfortune is the not Rightly Understanding the Nature of *Government*, its *Original*, and the Obligation of *Conscience* to it, as to *God* and not to *Men*. This was Pardonable in the *Heathen*, who had not the Light of the Holy *Scriptures* to Instruct them in the *Original* and *Obligation* of it. And our *Whiggs* not Consulting the *Scriptures* in this Case, or little Regarding them, have fallen into the *Error* of the *Heathen*, of placing *Government* upon the Foot of the *People*, and in that Frame can find no *End* or *last Resort*, but Every Man makes himself *Judge*, and Nothing can follow but Eternal *Confusion*. And let a Man Act never so *Sincerely* and *Generously* upon these *Principles*, yet all must be

be *Confuſion* ſtill. For the beſt *Work-Man* can Never *Build* without a *Foundation*. And the *People* cou'd Never be the *Foundation* of *Government*, or can be the *laſt Reſort* in any Diſputes about it, or indeed about any thing elſe. Which I think I have made fully Appear, paſt any Poſſibility of a Reply. This was the Work I firſt Engag'd in, and hope I have Perform'd.

(5.) *Country-m.* They ſay our *Conſtitution* is upon the Foot of the *People*. And yet we have a *laſt Reſort*, that is, the *King* (or *Queen*) and *Parliament*. There is an End of all Diſputes. There is no *Appeal* from that *Authority*.

Rehearſ. Yet all our *Popular Orators* do *Appeal* from it. They tell you of an *Authority* that is *Superior* to it, which did *Conſtitute* it, and may *Limit* it, or *Diſſolve* it that is, the *People*. Hence *De Foe* threaten'd the *Parliament* with the *Magazine* of *Original Power*. And his *Collegue* Mr. *Hoadly* in his *Aſſize Sermon* (as I have before Quoted him) tells you p. 9. *That Property is ſuch a Poſſeſſion of what we call our own, as cannot be ſhaken by any Humour or Arbitrary will of one Man, or Society of Men.* So that an *Act of Parliament* cannot *Shake* his *Eſtate*! He wou'd *Appeal* to his *Original* of *Power* the *People!* But if the *Parliament* ſhould catch him by the Way, they might give him a *Draw-back*, would ſtop his Leap to the *Dazie*, which the merry Fellow ſaid he would hit when he threw himſelf off the *Ladder*. But he ſtopt ſhort the Road being too *Narrow*. *De Foe* has taken geat Pains in his late *Reviews*, (for the Comfort of his *Dear Brethren* in *Scotland* to bring himſelf into this *Nooſe*, and to Prove that the *Articles* of *Union* have *Limited* the *Britiſh Parliament*, and that the *Queen* and they together have not *Authority* Sufficient to Alter any thing therein *Excepted*. And he Promis'd to *Juſtify* this to their *Faces*. But his *Courage* is Pall'd, and I fancy he is *Convinc'd* of his *Error*, and will have a Care how he Leaps hereafter at a *Dazy*——

(6.) *Country-m.* At this Rate it is in Vain to make any *Conditions* with *Soveraign Powers!*

Rehearſ. In Vain for their *Subjects*, farther than to Truſt to their *Honour* and *Juſtice*. For ther can be no *Coercion* over the *Soveraign*, that wou'd Confound all *Government*. And nothing can be *Excepted* from the *laſt Reſort*, for if ther is a Diſpute about it, even that muſt be Determin'd by the *laſt Reſort*. And in no Caſe whatever, or in any Frame of *Government* whatſoever, can any *Appeal* lie to the *People*. For if *Government* were Devolv'd to the *People* it wou'd Ceaſe to be *Government*, it wou'd be perfect *Anarchy*, we can have no other Notion of *Anarchy*.

(7.) *Country-m.* But can the *Parliament* Chuſe the *Members* for the next Enſuing *Parliament*?

Rehearſ. If the *Queen* and *Parliament* ſhou'd paſs ſuch an *Act*, no doubt it wou'd Hold. They may Perpetuate the ſame *Parliament* if they will. They may do what they Pleaſe, becauſe the *laſt Reſort* is with them. The laſt *Engliſh Parliament* did Continue themſelves to be *Members* of the firſt *Britiſh Parliament*. If the *Queen* thought fit. And the *Members* for *Scotland* were Choſe by the *Parliament* there, and not by the *People*.

(8.) *Country-m.* Then they Miſrepreſent our *Conſtitution* who ſay it is Built upon the Foot of the *People*.

Rehearſ. Yes, moſt Groſly, *Country-man*, as I have ſhew'd you from our *Acts of Paliament*, as well as from *Reaſon* and *Fact*, and all our *Hiſtories*; wherein tho' we Read of ſeveral *Rebellions* rais'd on this Pretence of the Power of the *People*, yet our *Conſtitution* appear'd to be Plainly otherwiſe, and that theſe were *Infractions* upon it, as being all of them againſt the known *Laws* of the Land. And no *Law* can be Produc'd in *England* to this Day, that Allows the *People* to take *Arms* againſt the *Government*, on any *Pretence* whatſoever.

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London, Printed and Sold by the Bookſellers of *London* and *Weſtminſter*. 1708.